

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Remarks Regarding Amendment

Support for the amendment to the Specification may be found in claim 12 as originally filed. No new matter is included and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Remarks Regarding Section 112

Claims 12-25 stand rejected as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants thank the Examiner for suggesting amending the Specification. Applicants have amended the Specification according to the Examiner's suggestion. Thus, this rejection is moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Remarks Regarding Section 103

Claims 12-25 were rejected under Section 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Uchida et al. (WO 01/47824 A1), Shustack (U.S. Patent 5,336,529), and Bicerano (Predication of Polymer Properties) and Furukawa (Physical Chemistry of Polymer Rheology). Appellants traverse.

The claimed invention, as embodied in pending claims 12-25, is directed to optical fibers with a primary coating having a modulus of less than 3 MPa at 23°C and a secondary coating made from a curable resin composition with a glass transition temperature between 30°C and 85°C and a stress relaxation time of 30 minutes or less.

The teachings of Uchida do not render claims 12-25 obvious. Uchida refers to liquid curable resin compositions for coating optical fibers. Uchida's compositions comprise urethane (meth)acrylate compounds, (meth)acrylate compounds, and a polymer initiator. Significantly, Uchida is silent regarding the glass transition

temperature and relaxation time of the secondary coating. In addition, Uchida is also silent with respect to “an optical fiber with a primary coating with a modulus of less than 3 MPa.” See, pending claim 12. Since Uchida is silent as to the composition of the primary coating we do not know Uchida’s primary coating composition and it cannot be argued that Uchida inherently discloses a primary coating having a modulus of less than 3 MPa at 23°C. For these reasons, the claimed invention is not obvious in view of Uchida.

The addition of the separate teachings of Shustack, Furukawa and Bicerano to the teachings of Uchida does not make the claimed invention obvious. Furukawa and Bicerano are general textbook references relating to the field of polymers and their properties. Neither Furukawa or Bicerano teach the fabrication of optical fibers. Shustack refers to unrelated optical fibers. The combination of the separate teachings of Uchida, Shustack Furukawa and Bicerano does not and cannot teach or suggest all the limitations of the claimed invention as recited in claim 12.

For the reasons stated above, the withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having fully responded to the pending Office Action, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit an early Notice to that effect. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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